protected carboxyl group; b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group; or b-3) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, or 4) a dihydroxopyrimidyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom is further substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group; b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group; or b-3) a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group.

5. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein Ar is an optionally substituted aryl.

6. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein Ar is a phenyl substituted with a halogen atom.

7. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^1 is represented by the formula $-NR^4R^5$ (wherein R^4 and R^5 are the same as or different from each other and each represents hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl group or a C3-C8 cycloalkyl group, or a C2-C5 saturated cyclic amino group which is formed with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, whereupon this ring may contain oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen other than the nitrogen and

may be substituted with a C1-C4 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom.

B20 cont

8. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^1 is amino.

9. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^1 is amino; R^2 is hydrogen; and R^3 is 1) a pyridyl group which may be substituted with hydroxyl or a C1-C6 alkyl group or 2) a 1,2-dihydro-2-oxopyridyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom may further be substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group; b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group; or b-3) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl group.

A3

10. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^1 is amino, R^2 is hydrogen, and R^3 is a 1,2-dihydro-2-oxopyridyl group whose nitrogen may be substituted with a C1 to C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom.

B20 cont

A3

11. (Amended) The condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, wherein R^1 is amino, R^2 is a C2 alkynyl group which is substituted with hydroxyll group and a C4-C6 cycloalkyl group, R^3 is a C3 alkenyl group, and Ar is a phenyl substituted with a halogen atom.

B20 cont

16. (Amended) An agent for preventing or treating diabetes mellitus, which comprises the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof as the active ingredient.

A4

17. (Amended) An agent for preventing or treating diabetic complications, which comprises the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof as the active ingredient.

18. (Amended) An agent for preventing or treating diseases against which the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof is effective.

19. (Amended) An agent for preventing or treating diabetic retinopathy, which comprises the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof as the active ingredient.

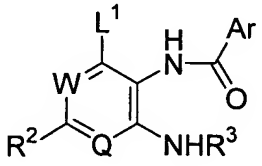
B20 cont A4

20. (Amended) An adenosine A2 receptor antagonist comprising the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof.

21. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

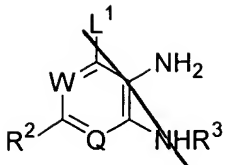
B20 cont A5

23. (Amended) A process for producing an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined below, respectively), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, which comprises allowing an aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) represented by the following formula:



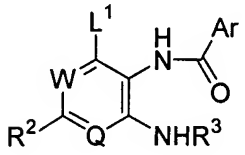
(A2)

(wherein L^1 represents a halogen atom; R^2 represents 1) hydrogen, 2) a halogen atom, 3) formula $-NR^6R^7$ (wherein R^6 and R^7 are the same as or different from each other and represent hydrogen, a C2-C5 acyl group, a C1-C8 alkyl group or a C3-C8 cycloalkyl group, or R^6 and R^7 represent a C2-C5 saturated cyclic amino group which is formed with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, whereupon this ring may contain an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a nitrogen atom other than the nitrogen atom and may be substituted with a C1-C4 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom), 4) a C2-C8 alkynyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl, a C1-C4 alkyl group or a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, 5) a C3-C8 alkenyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 6) a C1-C8 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or a C1-C4 alkyl group, or 7) a C1-C8 alkoxy group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or a C1-C4 alkyl group; R^3 represents 1) a C3-C8 alkynyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 2) a C3-C8 alkenyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 3) a C1-C8 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C1-C4 alkyl group, 4) an optionally

substituted aryl group, 5) an optionally substituted heteroaryl group, 6) a 1,2-dihydro-2-oxopyridyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom may further be substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group, b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group or b-3) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, 7) a dihydroxopyrimidyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group, and whose nitrogen atom is further substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group, b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group or b-3) a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group or 8) a dihydroxo or tetrahydrodioxopyrazinyl group which may be substituted with a) a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group and whose nitrogen atom is further substituted with b-1) a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxy, b-2) an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group, or b-3) a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group; and Q and W are the same as or different from each other and each represents N or CH), to react with an acyl compound represented by the formula ArCOX (wherein X represents a halogen atom; and Ar represents 1) an optionally substituted aryl group, 2) an optionally substituted heteroaryl group, 3) an oxopyridyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom or

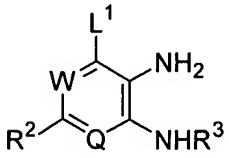
a C1-C6 alkyl group and whose nitrogen atom is substituted with a C1-C6 alkyl group or a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, or 4) an oxopyrimidyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom or a C1-C6 alkyl group and whose nitrogen atom is substituted with a C1-C6 alkyl group or a C3-C6 cycloalkyl group).

24. (Amended) A process for producing an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



(A3)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof, which comprises allowing an aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) represented by the following formula:



(A2)

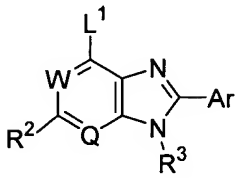
(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to react in the presence of pyridine with an acyl compound represented by the formula ArCOX (wherein X and Ar have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

B20 cont

25. (Amended) The process for producing an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof according to claim 23 or 24, wherein R^3 is an N-C1-C8 alkyl-2-oxopyrimidinyl group.

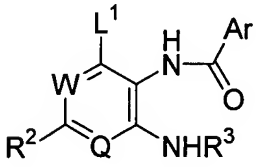
A5

26. (Amended) A process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:



(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises subjecting an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



(A3)

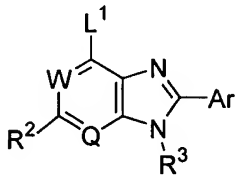
(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined

above, respectively) to ring-closure reaction in the presence of $POCl_3$.

B20 cont

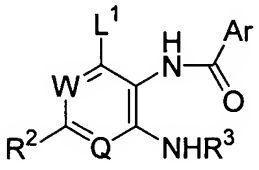
27. (Amended) A process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:

A5



(A4)

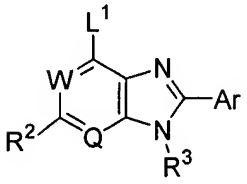
(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises subjecting an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



(A3)

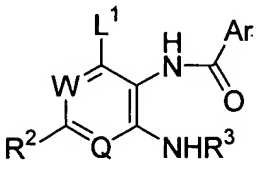
(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to ring-closure reaction in the presence of hydrochloric acid or using hydrochloride of an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3).

28. (Amended) A process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:



(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises subjecting an acylaminopyridine compound, acylaminopyrimidine compound or acylaminobenzene compound (A3) represented by the following formula:



(A3)

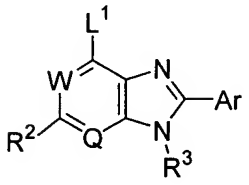
(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to ring-closure reaction in NMP (1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone) under heating.

29. (Amended) The process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof according to claims 24

and 26-28, wherein R^3 is an N-C1-C8 alkyl-2-oxopyridinyl group.

B20 cont

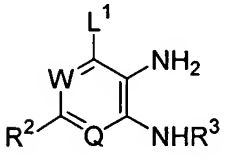
30. (Amended) A process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the following formula:



(A4)

A5

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises allowing an aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) represented by the following formula:



(A2)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) to react with an acyl compound represented by the formula ArCOX (wherein X and Ar have the same meanings as defined above, respectively); and then subjecting the product to ring-closure reaction.

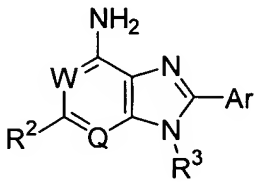
31. (Amended) The process for producing an imidazopyridine

compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof according to claim 30, wherein the aminopyridine compound, aminopyrimidine compound or aminobenzene compound (A2) is converted in one-pot reaction into the imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4).

B20 cont

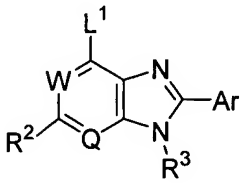
32. (Amended) A process for producing an aminoimidazopyridine compound, aminoimidazopyrimidine compound or aminoimidazobenzene compound (A5), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the formula:

A5



(A5)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises aminating an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (A4) represented by the following formula:



(A4)

(wherein L^1, R^2, R^3, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined

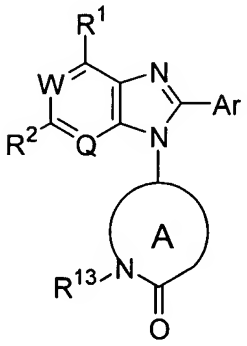
above, respectively).

B20 cont

33. (Amended) The process for producing an aminoimidazopyridine compound, aminoimidazopyrimidine compound or aminoimidazobenzene compound (A5), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof according to claim 32, wherein R^3 is an N-C1-C8 alkyl-2-oxopyridinyl group.

A5

34. (Amended) A process for producing an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (C3), a salt thereof or hydrates thereof represented by the formula:

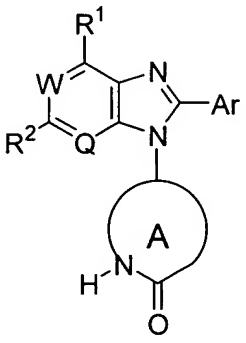


(C3)

(wherein R^{13} means a C1-C6 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom, hydroxyl or an optionally protected carboxyl group, an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl-C1-C4 alkyl group, or an optionally substituted C3-C6 cycloalkyl group; and R^1, the formula:

B20 cont

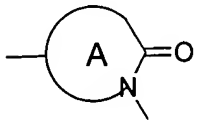
R^2, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), which comprises alkylating an imidazopyridine compound, imidazopyrimidine compound or imidazobenzene compound (C2) represented by the following formula:



AS

(C2)

(wherein R^1 represents 1) hydrogen, 2) hydroxyl, 3) a halogen atom, 4) an optionally substituted C1-C8 alkyl group or 5) formula $-NR^4R^5$ (wherein R^4 and R^5 are the same as or different from each other and each represents hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl group or a C3-C8 cycloalkyl group, or a C2-C5 saturated cyclic amino group which is formed with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, whereupon this ring may contain oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen other than the nitrogen atom and may be substituted with a C1-C4 alkyl group which may be substituted with a halogen atom; the formula:



represents dihydrooxopyridinyl or -pyrimidyl, or dihydro- or

tetrahydropyrazinyl; and R^2, Ar, Q and W have the same meanings as defined above, respectively.

B20 cont

35. (Amended) A method of preventing or treating diabetes mellitus; diabetic complications; diabetic retinopathy; diseases against which the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof is effective; or diseases against which an adenosine A2 receptor antagonism is effective, by administering a pharmacologically effective amount of the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof.

A5

36. (Amended) Use of the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof, for producing a preventive or therapeutic agent for diabetes mellitus; diabetic complications; diabetic retinopathy; or diseases against which the condensed imidazole compound according to claim 1, a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof or hydrates thereof is effective, or an adenosine A2 receptor antagonist.